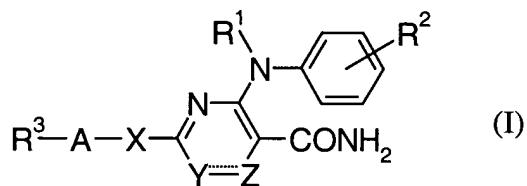


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(currently amended):** A heterocyclecarboxamide derivative represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, thereof.



{wherein the symbols in the formula have the following meanings, meanings:

A: a lower alkylene which may have substituent(s), an arylene which may have substituent(s), a heteroarylene comprising a five to six-membered monocyclic group having from one to four hetero atoms selected from O, S, and N, which may have substituent(s), or a cycloalkylene which may have substituent(s);

X: NR^4 , CONR^4 , NR^4CO , O , or S ;

~~a dotted line between Y and Z: presence (Y=Z) or absence (Y-Z) of a bond;~~

~~Y-Z: $\text{N}(\text{R}^5)\text{C}(\text{O})$, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^5)$, $\text{N}(\text{R}^5)\text{N}(\text{R}^5)$, or $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{C}(\text{O})$;~~

~~Y=Z: $\text{N}=\text{C}(\text{R}^6)$, $\text{C}(\text{R}^7)=\text{N}$, $\text{N}=\text{N}$, or $\text{C}(\text{R}^7)=\text{C}(\text{R}^7)$;~~

R^1, R^4 : H, a lower alkyl, -CO-lower alkyl, or $-\text{SO}_2$ -lower alkyl;

R^2 : H, a lower alkyl, a halogen, a lower alkyl substituted by halogen(s), -O-lower alkyl,

-S-lower alkyl, -O-aryl, -O-lower alkylene-aryl, -S-lower alkylene-aryl, nitro, cyano, OCH₂O, or -(CH=CH-CH=CH)-;

R³: -CO₂H, -CO₂-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-CO₂H, -lower alkylene-CO₂-lower alkyl, -CONHOH, -CONHO-lower alkyl, -lower alkylene-CONHOH, -lower alkylene-CONHO-lower alkyl, -NH₂, -(NH₂ in a prodrug form), -lower alkylene-NH₂, or -lower alkylene-(NH₂ in a prodrug form);

R⁵: ~~the same or different, H or a lower alkyl group;~~

R⁶: ~~a lower alkyl, OH, O lower alkyl, O aryl which may have substituent(s), O lower alkylene aryl which may have substituent(s), NR⁴-aryl which may have substituent(s), CO lower alkyl, or aryl group which may have substituent(s);~~

R⁷: ~~the same or different, H, a lower alkyl, -OH, -O-lower alkyl, -O-aryl which may have substituent(s), -O-lower alkylene-aryl which may have substituent(s), -NR¹-aryl which may have substituent(s), -CO-lower alkyl, or -aryl group which may have substituent(s).~~

~~or the same group as R⁶}~~

2. **(currently amended):** The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X is NR⁴ and A is a lower alkylene or cycloalkylene.

3. **(canceled):** ~~The compound or a salt thereof according to claim 2, wherein Y=Z is N=C(R⁶), C(R⁷)=N, or C(R⁷)=C(R⁷).~~

4. **(currently amended):** The compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from ~~6-(2-aminoethylamino)-2-(3-ethylaniline)pyridine-3-carboxamide, 6-(2-aminoethylamino)-2-(3-trifluoromethylaniline)pyridine-3-carboxamide, 2-(2-aminoethylamino)-4-hydroxy-6-(3-~~

~~methylanilino)pyrimidine 5 carboxamide, 6 (cis 2 aminocyclohexylamino) 2 (3-methylanilino)pyridine 3 carboxamide, 6 (cis 2 aminocyclohexylamino) 2 (3,5-dimethylanilino)pyridine 3 carboxamide, 5 (cis 2 aminocyclohexylamino) 3 (3-methylanilino)pyrazine 2 carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(3-methoxyanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(3-phenoxyanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(4-methylsulfanylanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 5-(cis-2-aminocyclohexylamino)-3-(3,5-dimethoxyanilino)pyrazine-2-carboxamide, 2 (cis 2 aminocyclohexylamino) 4 hydroxy 6 (3-methylanilino)pyrimidine 5 carboxamide, 2 (cis 2 aminocyclohexylamino) 4 (3-bromoanilino)-6-hydroxypyrimidine 5 carboxamide, and 2 (cis 2 aminocyclohexylamino) 4 (2-chlorophenoxy) 6 (3-methylanilino)pyrimidine 5 carboxamide.~~

5. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~thereof~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound according to claim 1 which is a Syk inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~thereof~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.